

Breeding of Brown Flycatcher.—The following abstract of field notes relates to a pair of Brown Flycatchers (*Microeca fascians*) which held territory in open forest adjacent to the Bilbarin townsite. The birds were not marked, but I have no reason to suppose that the birds observed were other than one pair. Three of four clutches laid were unsuccessful, though I followed my usual practice of not touching either nest or eggs and of observing with binoculars from a reasonable distance. The four nests were built within an area of six square chains and I should say that the territory occupied by the birds would cover about one acre.

September 8, 1946: Observed one bird of a pair nest-building. The nest, still unlined, was 21 inches from the ground in a horizontal fork of a fallen dead tree and was quite exposed.

September 15: Nest contained one egg.

September 22: Nest being dismantled and rebuilt six feet from the ground in a vertical fork of a sucker at the foot of a wandoo 66 yards from the original site. Both birds appeared to be engaged in the work. Half an egg shell, roughly divided longitudinally, was under the old nest.

September 29: Nest contained one egg.

October 6: Nest apparently deserted with shell of one egg, roughly broken, underneath. Birds engaged in building third nest three feet from the ground in a vertical fork of a slender dead sucker, 73 yards away, but only 34 yards from the site of the original nest.

October 10: Nest complete but empty.

October 13: Nest still empty.

October 20: Bird sitting on two eggs.

October 21: Two eggs in nest. The second nest has disappeared --possibly utilised in building the third, though when I found the third the birds appeared to be obtaining material from other sources.

November 13: Nest gone.

November 17: Birds at nest containing one egg. This nest, four feet from the ground in a vertical fork of a dead branch of a sucker, was 65 yards from the site of the third nest.

November 24: Naked chick in nest.

December 1: Chick fledged and filling nest.

—ERIC H. SEDGWICK, Leonora.

Domestic co-operation among Chestnut-tailed Thornbills.—While walking along a bush track not far from Coorow on September 1, 1947, I was startled by the sudden passage of a small bird almost directly across my line of vision and only a few inches from my face. On halting to investigate I discovered that the culprit was a Chestnut-tailed Thornbill (*Acanthiza uropygialis*) which had flushed from its snugly concealed nest in the hollow spout of a York Gum. There were three eggs.

I was not able to visit the site again until September 10, when much to my surprise two of the Thornbill's eggs had disappeared and been replaced by the closely spotted egg of the Narrow-billed Bronze Cuckoo (*Chalcites basalis*). On September 15 a recently hatched young Cuckoo was the only occupant.

On the following day I spent some time at the nest and was amazed to observe three adult Thornbills in attendance. One adult entered the hollow and was fed in turn by each of two other individuals, so that at one time all three birds might be seen to-



Female Chestnut-tailed Thornbill feeding its young.

—Photo S. R. White.

gether. This habit of multiple attendance at the nest is a well known feature of the Blue Wrens (*Malurus*). Has it been noted by other members among the Thornbills (*Acanthiza*)?

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Western and Eastern forms of the Bearded Dragon Lizard.—
In *The Western Australian Naturalist*, vol. 1, no. 8, p. 157, reference was made to the characters in which the western and eastern